

man shall act in the place and stead of the chairman in the absence of the chairman. The chairmanship and the vice chairmanship shall alternate between the Senate and the House of Representatives with each Congress. The chairman during each even-numbered Congress shall be selected by the Members of the House of Representatives on the Joint Committee from among their number and the chairman during each odd-numbered Congress shall be selected by the Members of the Senate on the Joint Committee from among their number. The vice chairman during each Congress shall be chosen in the same manner from that House of Congress other than the House of Congress of which the chairman is a Member.

(Pub. L. 91-510, title IV, § 401, Oct. 26, 1970, 84 Stat. 1187.)

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective immediately prior to noon on Jan. 3, 1971, see section 601(1) of Pub. L. 91-510, set out as an Effective Date of 1970 Amendment note under section 72a of this title.

#### CESSATION

No funds have been appropriated for the Joint Committee on Congressional Operations subsequent to Sept. 30, 1977, and the Joint Committee has ceased to function.

### § 412. Duties of Joint Committee

#### (a) Congressional improvements, study and recommendations; identification of court proceedings

The Joint Committee shall—

(1) make a continuing study of the organization and operation of the Congress of the United States and shall recommend improvements in such organization and operation with a view toward strengthening Congress, simplifying its operations, improving its relationships with other branches of the United States Government, and enabling it better to meet its responsibilities under the Constitution of the United States; and

(2) identify any court proceeding or action which, in the opinion of the Joint Committee, is of vital interest to the Congress, or to either House of the Congress, as a constitutionally established institution of the Federal Government and call such proceeding or action to the attention of that House of the Congress which is specifically concerned or to both Houses of the Congress if both Houses are concerned.

#### (b) Exercise of functions under section 416 of this title

The Joint Committee shall exercise all functions vested in it by section 416 of this title.

#### (c) Report to Congress

The Joint Committee shall report, from time to time, to the Senate and the House of Representatives their recommendations with respect to matters within the jurisdiction of the Joint Committee.

#### (d) Excepted matters

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize the Joint Committee to make any recommendations with respect to the rules, par-

liamentary procedure, practices, or precedents of either House or the consideration of any matter on the floor of either House.

(Pub. L. 91-510, title IV, § 402, Oct. 26, 1970, 84 Stat. 1187.)

#### SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 414 of this title.

### § 412a. Continuing study of jurisdiction of House standing committees by House members of Joint Committee; periodic report to House Committee on Rules; contents and purposes of report

The House members of the Joint Committee on Congressional Operations shall undertake and conduct a continuing study of the jurisdiction of the various standing committees of the House under Rule X of the Rules of the House and the relative workloads sustained by such committees as a result thereof, and periodically shall prepare for submission to and consideration by the Committee on Rules (and for possible submission by that committee to the full House) a report including any recommended changes in the Rules of the House which may be necessary or appropriate to effect a more equitable distribution of workload or a more rational combination of jurisdictional responsibilities. It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the House members of the Joint Committee on Congressional Operations should work with the Senate members of such joint committee in an effort to rationalize the committee jurisdiction between the Houses.

(Pub. L. 93-554, title I, ch. III, § 101, Dec. 27, 1974, 88 Stat. 1777.)

#### CODIFICATION

Section is based on section 206 of House Resolution No. 988, Ninety-third Congress, Oct. 8, 1974, which was enacted into permanent law by Pub. L. 93-554.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 101 of Pub. L. 93-554 provided in part that the enactment of House Resolution No. 988, Ninety-third Congress, Oct. 8, 1974, into permanent law is effective on Jan. 2, 1975. This section is derived from enactment into permanent law of section 206 of House Resolution No. 988.

### § 413. Powers of Joint Committee; rule making, majority requirement; subpoenas, signature and service; administration of oaths

The Joint Committee, or any duly authorized subcommittee thereof, is authorized to sit and act at such places and times during the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of Congress, to require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such books, papers, and documents, to administer such oaths and affirmations, to take such testimony, to procure such printing and binding, and to make such expenditures, as it deems advisable. The Joint Committee may make such rules respecting its organization and procedures as it deems necessary, except that no recommendation shall be reported from the Joint Committee unless a majority of the Joint Committee assent. Subpoenas may be issued over the signature of the chairman of the Joint Committee or of